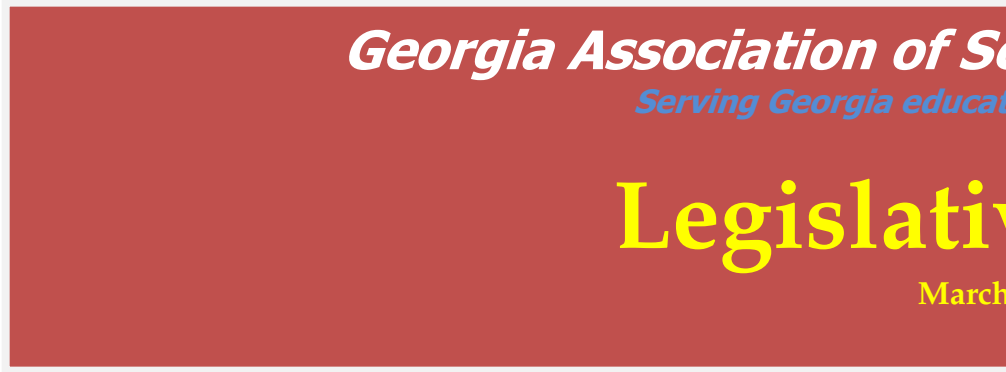


Jimmy Stokes

From: Jimmy Stokes [stokes30650@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 11:24 AM
To: Stokes30650@bellsouth.net
Subject: GASSP Legislative Update--March 26, 2010



Black and Blue and Georgia

Monday was one of the darkest days seen in the House of Representatives in some time. The House debated, using the term loosely, **HR 1086**, for well over three hours. The intent of resolution was to offer an Georgia Constitutional amendment that would overturn the stipulations of the US Congress' Health Care Bill. More than a debate it was venting, name calling, and nasty language aimed at the other party and toward the US Congress. In the end the bill failed to gain a constitutional majority and failed. Though many House members opposed changing the calendar, it was provincial that Tuesday was an off day so that tempers and hurt feelings could soothe. There were many slurs and issuances of downright wrong information. Only time will tell if the members of the House can forgive and forget.

On Wednesday, the House passed **HB 990** which regulates school board members engaging in the bail bond business. The House also passed **HB 1200** which permits BOEs to accept gifts and donations for field trips. The Senate passed a three bills, **SB 308** also known as the gun bill which permits carry a gun in many public places but NOT K-12 schools, and **SB 421** which expands the Revenue Shortfall Revenue maximum to 15%. The third bill passed by the Senate was **SB 457** which permits high school clusters to apply for charter school status. **SB 320**, the Teacher's Bill of Rights, was not voted on by the Senate and appears to be dead for the session unless it is attached to another bill.

Today is Day 30 and bills that do not exit their chamber of origin today and considered dead for the session UNLESS the legislation is attached to a bill which has exited its chamber, or unless there is sufficient political wrangling that gets the bill considered. All that applies to Days 1-39, on Day 40 rules are enforced per the pleasure of the Speaker and the Lt. Governor. The House had NO education bills on the calendar. The Senate calendar for Day 30 includes **SB 496 (needs based HOPE), SB 332 (eliminates felony charge on first non-threatening weapon at school), SB 521 (counts for dual enrollment), SB 515 (Educator Salary Protection Act which impact few if any school systems, and SB 518 (curriculum for pledge of allegiance).**

NEWS **Yow**

from reports filed by Skip

On Monday there was a flurry of legislative activity and announcements. No announcement was bigger for educators that the Chair of Senate Rules Don Balfour made—**SB 386, the last standing bill to create pay for performance is dead for the session.** The House passed **HB 1307** which suspends for five years the 10 PLU requirement for recertification. Also receiving House approval was **HB 1103** which transfers responsibility for criminal background checks to the PSC from local school systems. Of major interest, **HB 281** on which you were asked to contact your legislator, **failed 88-74.** There was considerable debate in and out of the chamber over what the bill meant. Reading the bill appeared to include virtual and home school students, legislative counsel argued that was not what the bill meant, but the legislators heard from **YOU** and a very badly worded and intended bill failed. **You must recognize the power that you and the other educators across the state have and the legislature responded—the legislative process is beautiful when all parties get involved! But it is not over until it is over.** There was a motion for reconsideration which will be heard on **Day 30. Stay tuned.** Monday saw some touchy times in the House. Unexpectedly, House leadership proposed an adjournment resolution that calls for the legislature to be out on Tuesday, back on Wednesday, and have Day 30 on Friday, followed by three days next week and the week of April 5 being declared as Spring Break for the legislature. Though it passed it was not well received.

The Senate Education and Youth Committee met on Monday and gave **SB 515** a do pass. Originally the bill established the Educator's Salary

Protection act but it was amended to stipulate that if a school system has a 6% or greater unencumbered reserve on September 1, it is prevented from furloughing teachers during that school year. The 6% does not include encumbered salaries. Though the bill sounds profound, very few systems have a 6% reserve on September 1. The Senate Ed Committee also gave a do pass to **SB 518 which requires a study of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States and Georgia. The bill does not specify where it is to be added to the curriculum.**

NEW Legislation—these bills have little hope of action unless they are attached to another bill

House Bill 1420 Prohibits smoking in state and local government buildings and vehicles

House Bill 1428 Prohibits the construction of a school within 500 feet of a freeway or other busy traffic corridor

House Bill 1432 Requires that University System schools grant foreign language credit for courses completed in American Sign Language

House Bill 1445 Establishes a period of residency for BOE members to meet qualifications for office

House Bill 1457 Permits parents and students to not release their personal information to military recruiters

House Bill 1459 Expands the period of quiet reflection to include silent meditation, inspirational poems or reading, and silent praying

House Resolution 1737 Constitutional amendment that creates the Georgia Tax Reform Commission

Senate Bill 518 Requires a study of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States and Georgia as a part of public school curriculum

Senate Bill 525 Limits class size in all science laboratory classes to 25

Senate Bill 528 Provides public school students and their parents with the option of not releasing their personal information to military recruiters

Senate Resolution 1287 Constitutional amendment that prohibits the collection of **state** ad valorem taxes except in the case of emergency

Senate Resolution 1290 Creates the Joint Study Committee on Performance Based Salaries for Teachers

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